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Senate looking to expediting Sewer Bond Initiative

Lansing – Legislation introduced in the Michigan Senate this week would speed up the sale of bonds, under the voter-approved 2002 Sewer Bond Initiative, thereby allowing communities to start their local sewer pollution control projects sooner, said the bill's sponsor, Sen. Alan Sanborn (R-Richmond).

“Improving Michigan’s sewage disposal infrastructure is an absolute necessity for the protection of our lakes, streams and groundwater,” Sanborn said. “By moving up the time table on issuance of the Great Lakes Water Quality Bonds, we get these much-needed improvements underway sooner. This will give Michigan’s economy a boost, while providing work for a great many construction workers and contractors.”

Voters approved the Sewer Bond Initiative in 2002 as part of the Great Lakes Water Quality Bond Authorization Act. Senate Bill 833 would increase from 10 percent to 20 percent the amount of bond proceeds available to be issued as low interest loans for sewage treatment works projects, storm water projects, and non-point source pollution projects. This change has the potential to bring an estimated 4,000 to 5,000 new construction jobs for each \$100 million worth of bonds sold.

SB 833 is part of the JOBS plan – “Job Opportunities for Business Success” – recently introduced by the Senate and House Republicans. The JOBS proposal would help create manufacturing jobs, spur new small-business investment for more job opportunities, and provide incentives to expand the state’s slow-moving economy by getting Michigan residents back to work.

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